

## Message Text

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14

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEA-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAM-01 SAB-01 IO-13 EB-07 AID-05 ACDA-07

SSM-03 /102 W

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R 300650Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7687

INFO AMEMBASSY DAKAR

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, GB

SUBJ: GOG FOREIGN MINISTER COMMENTS ON AFRO-ARAB  
RELATIONS

REF: (A) DAKAR 2524, (B) LIBREVILLE 0781

1. IN INTERVIEW CARRIED APRIL 27 IN LOCAL DAILY L'UNION,  
GOG FONMIN OKUMBA COMMENTED ON STATE OF AFRO-JAB RELA-  
TIONS FOLLOWING RECENT DAKAR CONFERENCE. OKUMBA INTERVIEW  
ALSO CAME IMMEDIATELY AFTER CONCLUSION OF FIRST MEETING  
OF JOINT UNITED ARAB EMIRATES-GOG COMMISSION (REPORTED  
REFTEL B).

2. FONMIN REFERRED TO OFFICIAL COMMUNIQUE FROM DAKAR  
CONFERENCE APPARENTLY CHOOSING TO IGNORE FACT THAT  
COMMUNIQUE NEVER FORMALLY ADOPTED (REFTEL A). HE SAID  
THAT DESPITE SEEMINGLY INNOCUOUS LANGUAGE STATEMENT REALLY  
QUITE IMPORTANT TESTIMONY OF AFRO-ARAB SOLIDARITY  
AND EVIDENCE OF ARAB ENGAGEMENT IN AFRICANS'  
STRUGGLE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA.

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3. OKUMBA ALSO POINTED OUT THAT DAKAR CONFERENCE WAS ANOTHER

STEP TOWARDS NEW ERA OF COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL COOPERATION BETWEEN ARAB AND AFRICAN STATES. HOWEVER, OKUMBA EMPHASIZED THAT ONLY LOGICAL WAY TO MAKE COOPERATION EFFECTIVE WAS TO ASSOCIATE WESTERN TECHNOLOGY AND MARKETS WITH ARAB CAPITAL AND AFRICAN PRIMARY MATERIALS.

4. FINALLY, OKUMBA CLAIMED THAT PRESIDENT BONGO PLAYED MAJOR ROLE IN OBTAINING PARTICIPATION OF CERTAIN UNNAMED ARAB COUNTRIES AT DAKAR AND REFERRED TO HIMSELF AS "CHIEF MEDIATOR" AT THE CONFERENCE. AS RESULT, HE SAID, LIBREVILLE WAS BEING CONSIDERED AS SITE FOR FOLLOW-ON CHIEFS-OF-STATE CONFERENCE IN EARLY 1977.

5. COMMENT: OKUMBA'S MENTIONING NECESSITY OF ASSOCIATING WESTERN TECHNOLOGY WITH AFRO-ARAB COOPERATION UNDOUBTEDLY COMES FROM CURRENT GOG PROPOSALS TO UNITED ARAB EMIRATES TO PARTICIPATE AS FINANCIERS IN JUST SUCH TRIPARTITE PROJECTS TO DEVELOP GABONESE PRIMARY RESOURCES WITH WESTERN TECHNOLOGY FOR EXPORT TO WESTERN MARKETS. DEJARNETTE

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